

See Bulletin 329 pages 32-33 for the original article.

In the table of stamp perforators in London in 1905, the proprietor of the Islington High Street sub-post office was unknown. Now more information has come to light, thanks to John Mathews.

John looked at the 1899 and 1909 London Directories in the Australian National Library and both show that the Post and Money Order Office & Savings Bank in Islington High Street was at number 39. At the same premises is listed "W.A. Higgs & Co." The business was described as "tea importers" in 1899 and "grocers" in 1909. In 1899, they also occupied number 30, on the other side of the street, and in 1909, a telegraphic address of "Oopack" and telephone number 1096 North was shown.

Unfortunately the Directories did not give the name of the principal person(s) in the Higgs company, so it was unclear if Mr Higgs was also the sub-postmaster.

John later found out that William Alpheus Higgs died in the last quarter of 1889, aged 51, so he was definitely not the sub-postmaster in 1905! William had a couple of sons, of whom the second eldest Stanley was listed in the 1901 Census as being a "tea buyer", so he may have been running the business in 1905 and been the sub-postmaster.

Roy Gault kindly looked for a perfin that might correspond to W.A. Higgs & Co. Roy looked for Islington postmarks on "WAH", "WAH/&Co", "WH", "WH/&Co", "H", "H&Co", with/without stops, on single and multiple lines, but could find nothing. Do any members have Islington postmarks on any of these likely perfins? Surely a provider of perfins would have a perfin of their own.